

The New York Store

(ESTABLISHED 1853.)

OPEN TO NIGHT

Books, Games, Toys, etc.

Are going with a rush in the basement.

Holiday Books

Are selling at a lively rate on the second floor.

Christmas Handkerchiefs

Are everywhere on the main floor.

Will you be down today?

Pettis Dry Goods Co.

INDIANA OIL FIELDS

WINTER OPERATIONS RETARDED BY BAD CONDITION OF ROADS.

Number of Wells Completed in December and Their Product—Major Doxy Seeking New Territory.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

MONTPELIER, Ind., Dec. 20.—Operations in the Indiana oil fields for the month of December, now closing, show an increase in completed wells, which has been attended by a decrease in new production, resulting in lowering the average from 224 for November wells to 20 1/3 for those of December. This result, taken in connection with the fact that most of the completed work is in old territory may cause some reflection as to the necessity of expanding the range of activity or better contentment to see actual production brought down to a reasonable approximation of the consumptive demand. To those not engaged in the industry who may follow these reports, it may be prudent to say that measuring new production does not mean measuring the actual production of the field for the month. The latter is better obtained from the pipe line reports compiled monthly. New production is merely that of such wells as are drilled in during the month. The success of new ventures in the oil fields has not been as it was in the preceding month, differing pretty closely to the established record shows an appreciable conservatism which was manifested further in the limited number of test wells completed during the month. Throughout the entire field work may be considered as about holding its own. The completed wells increased from 130 to 152, and the new production decreased from 2,550 to 2,306 barrels. The weight of new production is still in Wells county, but Grant county is a coming rival.

A brief comparison between the figures of December of the present year and the corresponding month in the preceding years that are heard from time to time, will show that the industry has seen its best days; that it is being run down and depleted; that activity is becoming less and the operators discouraged. The following will show the number of wells completed in December for the past four years: 1892, 47; 1893, 83; 1894, 213; 1895, 152. Increases all around in this way would lead to the conclusion that the industry is an industry advanced to remove the idea of stagnation from some men's minds. The following figures are for the month of December against that of November, being a summary of completed wells:

| County. | Comp. | Prod. | Dry. |
|---------------|-------|-------|------|
| Wells | 62 | 1,410 | 0 |
| Blackford | 12 | 140 | 0 |
| Adams | 21 | 210 | 6 |
| Grant | 28 | 210 | 5 |
| Washington | 17 | 100 | 12 |
| Miscellaneous | 17 | 20 | 14 |
| Total | 159 | 2,306 | 30 |

| County. | Comp. | Prod. | Dry. |
|---------------|-------|-------|------|
| Wells | 71 | 1,605 | 9 |
| Blackford | 13 | 205 | 2 |
| Adams | 19 | 190 | 1 |
| Grant | 20 | 180 | 4 |
| Washington | 13 | 120 | 3 |
| Miscellaneous | 13 | 40 | 12 |
| Total | 159 | 2,565 | 34 |

Increase completed wells..... 2
Increase dry holes or gas wells..... 260
Average January wells, barrels..... 25.2
Average February wells, barrels..... 24.9
Average March wells, barrels..... 25.3
Average April wells, barrels..... 25.1
Average May wells, barrels..... 24.5
Average June wells, barrels..... 24.5
Average July wells, barrels..... 24.5
Average August wells, barrels..... 24.5
Average September wells, barrels..... 24.5
Average October wells, barrels..... 24.5
Average November wells, barrels..... 24.5
Average December wells, barrels..... 24.5

The following tables show the comparative number of wells in course of drilling and the number of rigs in position ready for operation:

| County. | Drgs. Rig. | Total. |
|---------------|------------|--------|
| Wells | 9 | 21 |
| Blackford | 5 | 14 |
| Adams | 13 | 8 |
| Grant | 22 | 8 |
| Washington | 2 | 5 |
| Miscellaneous | 2 | 5 |
| Total | 53 | 62 |

| County. | Drgs. Rig. | Total. |
|---------------|------------|--------|
| Wells | 11 | 32 |
| Blackford | 12 | 11 |
| Adams | 16 | 7 |
| Grant | 17 | 7 |
| Washington | 12 | 13 |
| Miscellaneous | 16 | 8 |
| Total | 75 | 80 |

In the Indiana fields there are two great drawbacks—the dry weather the past summer and the bad roads in the winter—and between the two it is rather an expensive luxury. Now the water is plenty, and, in consequence, the roads are ugly. Notwithstanding all these drawbacks, a vast amount of work is being done, and much more mapped for the winter months. The big companies make some preparations and

hailed materials when the roads were good, could only be done in advance in the established oil pools, the roads were muddy and wild-cattling will suffer to a certain extent. A good many advance test wells are going down through the State.

The Elcho Oil Company (Standard) has purchased the entire oil production and lease owned by the Alexander Bros. of the Montpelier field, at a nice, round sum.

The Standard Oil Company is erecting a large boiler house for the Elcho field, at the Elcho farm, in the same district.

The Buffalo and Indiana Oil Company finished a one-hundred-and-fifty-barrel well on the Elcho farm, in the same district.

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Major Doxy's Explorations.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

HARTFORD CITY, Ind., Dec. 20.—Major Doxy has some faith in the theory that the Elcho rock strata, near this city, is a cream oil territory. He has taken some leases here and will commence to develop the territory. He has taken a large acreage along the L. & E. V. railway, and secured several farms south of the city. The very limited supply of oil in the Delaware county field has caused Mr. Doxy to look northward, and he will not cease trying until a territory is found that will yield him returns for his ventures. The prospects are very flattering for the opening of an extensive oil field here, as the older gas wells are badly impregnated with the crude product.

NEW ENGLAND DINNER

ANNUAL BANQUET OF THE SOCIETY AT THE DENISON.

Addresses by Dr. Gladden of Columbus O., Byron K. Elliott, Bishop White and Many Others.

The fifth annual reception and banquet of the New England Society of Indianapolis was held at the Denison House last night.

The banquet was preceded by a reception, which was held in the parlors from 6 to 6:30 p. m. About one hundred and fifty guests were seated when the banquet opened, at half-past 6. Rev. Dr. Hyde, president of the society, together with Dr. Washington Gladden, of Columbus, O., ex-Judge Elliott, Bishop White, the newly-elected bishop for the Eastern diocese, and Indiana, Dr. Burton and other prominent members, accompanied by their wives, were seated at a large circular table in the center of the room. The tables were tastefully decorated with flowers, and the guests spent the time until 9 o'clock enjoying the delicate menu and social conversation.

Dr. Hyde, in his address, made a few brief remarks touching upon the objects and purposes of the society. He referred to the loss the society had sustained since its last banquet in the death of two distinguished members, Stoughton J. Fletcher and John M. Butler. He said the society had been very fortunate in being represented by the presence of Dr. Washington Gladden, of Columbus, O.

Dr. Gladden took up the history of the little body of men who gathered together in the historic manor of Scrooby, and who were called "Separatists" or Puritans. He told of the hardships and persecutions which they had undergone, among them being Cardinal Wolsey, and the story of the Pilgrims.

Dr. Gladden spoke of the different Puritan sects, and the story of the Pilgrims, and the story of the Pilgrims.

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A \$10,000 FIRE LOSS

TWO BUILDINGS AND STOCKS OF GOODS BURNED AT FRANKFORT.

Spiritualist Courthouse Dispute Among Rushville Citizens—Heavy Rain-fall at Hammond.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

FRANKFORT, Ind., Dec. 20.—Fire broke out in the third story of the Bryant & Daily drug store at 1 o'clock to-day and the building, with the one adjoining, belonging to J. W. Coulter, was damaged to the extent of several hundred dollars. The loss on Bryant & Daily's stock of goods, damaged by water, is estimated at \$5,000, and A. B. Kemp's grocery stock about \$500. Total loss, \$10,000, covered by insurance distributed among the following companies: Western of Toronto, German-American of New York, London and Lancashire, Girard of Philadelphia, Commercial Union of New York, Springfield F. and M. and Home of New York.

Campbell-Irwin Damage Suit.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

CRAWFORDSVILLE, Ind., Dec. 20.—The ten-thousand-dollar damage suit of Miss Edna Campbell against the wife and children of Dr. S. G. Irwin, a prominent resident here, has been on trial several days, and has drawn a large crowd. The evidence closed to-day at noon. The case was a peculiar one. Miss Campbell was employed by Dr. Irwin as a housekeeper. One evening Mrs. Irwin and a daughter and son went to the office and threw Miss Campbell out the side door, injuring her hip and bursting her eardrum. She then sued for damages. Mrs. Irwin testified that her husband was drunk the day of the trouble, and that she was in a fit of rage. She also said that the actions of her husband and Miss Campbell were of such a suspicious nature as to warrant a divorce action on her part. Dr. Irwin and Miss Campbell testified that there was nothing wrong between them in their relations, and the doctor said that he had a perfect right to employ whom he pleased in his office, and that it was not the business of a family to interfere. The jury is still out.

A Courthouse Controversy.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

RUSHVILLE, Ind., Dec. 20.—The County Commissioners last night returned from a tour of inspection of the courthouses at Tipton, Frankfort, Monticello, Winamac, Logansport, Peru, Rochester and Muncie. While at Rochester and Winamac they investigated the record of A. W. Rush & Son, of Grand Rapids, the architects of the proposed Rush county courthouse. Great opposition to the building of the courthouse is being made by the citizens of Rush & Son, who have developed since the last action taken by the citizens of Rush & Son, and the architects of the proposed Rush county courthouse. The investigation was satisfactory and Rush & Son will be retained as the architects and their plans will be accepted at a special meeting of the County Commissioners, to be held at night.

Five Inches of Rainfall.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

HAMMOND, Ind., Dec. 20.—Five and one-half inches of rain have fallen here since Tuesday evening, and the indications are that more rain will come to-night. The greater part of the city is under water and a great deal of damage has been done. The sewerage system is taxed to its limit. Never before in the history of Hammond has there been such a rainfall. In Homewood, a little town, where many of the houses are built on a hill, the water stands from six inches to three feet deep. Many basements have been flooded, and the water is doing much damage to the property. One of the worst features of the deluge is the large amount of sewage being carried into the city. All the city's drinking water is pumped from the lake, and it will be contaminated by the sewage. The city health officer has issued a notice against using the water for table purposes until it has been boiled.

Serious Discussion of Electric Roads.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

NEW ALBANY, Ind., Dec. 20.—A meeting was held to-day by the Commercial Club to discuss the project of constructing an electric railroad connecting this city with the towns of Leavenworth, on the river below this city, and Sellersburg, eight miles northwest. Delegations were present from Leavenworth, Sellersburg, Muncie and other neighboring towns. The project was presented by the Commercial Club, and the project was presented by the Commercial Club, and the project was presented by the Commercial Club.

Not a Regular "Hold Up."

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

MUNCIE, Ind., Dec. 20.—Lake Erie & Western officials of the Ft. W. C. & T. railway claim that a hold-up of a passenger train by passengers of the alleged attempt to hold up south-bound passenger train No. 43, near Keystone, Wells county, the story given by dispatcher Roberts is that a man stole a satchel belonging to another passenger, and when it was found secured under a seat a fight ensued. The thief had friends in the crowd, and the passengers took part. Many persons believe the story, and it was reported last night by the traveling men.

Suicide of an Old Resident.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

SHELLEVILLE, Ind., Dec. 20.—Joseph Cummins, of the undertaking firm of Cummins & Edwards, of this city, yesterday afternoon took morphine with suicidal intent and died this morning at 8 o'clock. Deceased was a native of this city, and was a well-known resident. He was married Miss Eliza Moore in 1844, and she, who was a native of this city, has had attacks of mental aberration, and for a time was confined in the Central Hospital. The Horne's Foot was the oldest member of the Masonic order in this city. He was also a member of the L. O. O. F.

Farmers Meet in Noblesville.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

NOBLESVILLE, Ind., Dec. 20.—The Hamilton County Farmers' Institute met in Wilda's Opera House this morning. The address of welcome was by Judge R. R. Stephenson, response by Chairman T. E. Bowles. Papers were read on "How to Grow Good in Dry Seasons," by Dr. Riley; "Contagious Diseases of Live Stock and How to Treat Them," by Professor A. W. Bittor of Venezuela.

The final toast, "New England in the war," was responded to by Attorney-general Ketcham.

Insane Patient Dies.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

William Nays, a patient received at the Central Hospital for Insane Thursday evening, was found dead in bed yesterday morning. Deputy Coroner Long held an inquest and decided the man died from pneumonia. The man was sent to this city from the poor farm in Vigo county, and the physician at the insane hospital said he should never have been sent. No examination was made as to his condition Thursday night, the physician in charge expecting to examine him yesterday morning. The Vigo county authorities telegraphed yesterday that the man's relatives were unknown, and directed that he be buried here.

Pickpockets at Work.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

Joseph Eck, of No. 529 East Ohio street, had his pockets picked in front of the When clothing store yesterday. He lost \$5. Mrs. Mary Mentz, of No. 75 Chestnut street, North Indianapolis, lost her pocketbook and the bad roads in the winter—and between the two it is rather an expensive luxury. Now the water is plenty, and, in consequence, the roads are ugly. Notwithstanding all these drawbacks, a vast amount of work is being done, and much more mapped for the winter months. The big companies make some preparations and

Have your grocer send you some of Huyler's candy, which will keep your next order. Once tried, always used.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

BRAZIL, Ind., Dec. 20.—All day yesterday Lea Barlow, ticket agent for the C. & S. E., mourned his pet cat as dead. It disappeared suddenly and no trace of it could be found. This cat has been his constant companion at the office for several months, and he has been very fond of it. He was greatly surprised when the passenger train returned from the north and he saw his pet cat on the trucks under the passenger coach, where it had hidden during the day, making the round trip from this city to Lebanon.

Echo of the Sloop Murder Trial.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

DESHAM, Ind., Dec. 20.—The class of the Sloop murder case at Monticello was marked by an exceedingly dramatic incident. Judge Reynolds, who represented the defendant, became involved in a dispute with Prosecuting Attorney Wilbur, and the latter calmly informed Reynolds that he was a liar, preceding the epithet with a clenched fist. Judge Reynolds, who was a dash for his opponent, but was headed off by a deputy sheriff who happened to be standing near by.

Conference of "Heavenly Recruits."

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

ELWOOD, Ind., Dec. 20.—To-day the Heavenly Recruits, a new church, representatives of which have been in session here three days, organized its first State conference west of Pennsylvania. About twenty ministers were present, representing about thirty churches. All there are in the State. Rev. J. W. Davis, of this city, was selected presiding elder, and the plan of the year's work of 1896 was mapped out. The next session will be held at Elwood, Ind., in three years and has passed rapidly.

TAX CASE DECISION

DEMURRER SUSTAINED AGAINST THE STATE BY JUDGE BROWN.

Holds 1891 Tax Law Unconstitutional So Far as It Seeks to Tax Express Companies' Gross Receipts.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

Judge Brown, of the Circuit Court, has sustained the demurrer of the defendant in the suit of John O. Henderson and the State of Indiana against the United States Express Company to collect delinquent taxes and penalties. The court's decision will practically end the litigation as far as the Circuit Court is concerned. The suit had been pending for more than a year. It was brought by ex-Auditor of State Henderson to enforce the payment of delinquent taxes and to collect heavy penalties for failure to comply with the statutes. The suit was based on the law of 1891, by virtue of which the